THE CHRISTIAN INDEED;

DESCRIBED IN A

LETTER

FROM

Gaifer to *Aly-Ben-Hayton.*

We ſpeak that we do know.

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THE CHRISTIAN INDEED;

Deſcribed in a

LETTER, &c.

GAIFER to ALY-BEN-HAYTON.

Dear Hayton,

YOU cannot be ignorant that the imperfect, though awakening, Information given me of the Chriſtian Religion, by the *Engliſh* Slave, under Captivity, to our bigotted Mahometan Neighbour, *Abdala*, put me upon a reſtleſs Deſire of a farther Knowledge therein. This I was convinced could not be obtained in my preſent unhappy Situation; being in a Country, where it is Death to give the leaſt Suſpicion of favouring the Chriſtian Profeſſion; where every Eye, and every Ear, were dangerous Watchers over all my Behaviour: Therefore it was, with all the Caution neceſſary, in ſo hazardous an Attempt, I happily got on Board the *Expedition*, bound from *Conſtantinople* to *London*.

When I came on Shore, as ſoon as I had Opportunity of making my Obſervations, I found that the Chriſtian Religion was, in general, profeſſed throughout this Kingdom. But notwithſtanding the Purity it injoins, it appeared that the generality of its Profeſſors were very looſe in their Morals, prophane in their Diſcourſe, and debauched in their Lives. They are alſo divided into many religious Sects, and what is much to be deplored, each carry their Oppoſition, for the moſt Part, againſt the other to that Height of Inveteracy, as if they worſhipped not the ſame God.

This put me upon farther Enquiry into the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion; a Taſk difficult enough for a Stranger to undertake, who had then but a ſmall Acquaintance with the *Engliſh* Tongue. But that Impediment was removed in a ſhorter Time than was expected, by the Aſſiſtance of a humane, ſober Gentleman, whoſe Profeſſion was to teach the Languages, and inſtruct his Pupils in the Religion of his Country. He took much Pains in teaching me both; and furniſhed me with ſuch Books as were neceſſary: Particularly of what they call the *Bible*, which is to Chriſtians, what the *Alcboran* is to the Mahometans. This is their perfect Rule of Faith, and contains a Declaration of the Will of God, with a full Account of future Rewards and Puniſhments for the Good and Evil.

As I read theſe ſacred Pages with an unprejudiced Mind, and a Deſire of Information, I ſoon found how miſtaken I had been concerning the Terms of Man's Acceptance with God, and of his final Salvation; namely, that it was *not by Works of Righteouſneſs which we had done, but according to his Mercy he ſaved us, by the Waſhing of Regeneration, and the Renewing of the Holy Ghoſt:* And that——*He that endureth to the End (in that Grace that bringeth Salvation) he ſhall be ſaved.* I clearly ſaw according to this Book, *That to him that could not work,* previous to

his Juſtification, *but believeth on Jeſus Chriſt, his Faith*, receiving and reſting upon him, *is imputed to him for Righteouſneſs*. I ſaw alſo both the Nature and Extent of the moral Law: The Fall of Man by the Tranſgreſſion of *Adam*, our general Root and Repreſentative: That the firſt Covenant being broken, Man was utterly unable to obtain Salvation thereby: And that Jeſus Chriſt, the ſecond *Adam*, came into the World to be the Saviour and living Head of all that believe in him: For them he fulfilled the Law: For them he ſatisfied divine Juſtice: And that the only Way to eternal Life was by receiving his Righteouſneſs imputed to them that believe.

When I began to underſtand ſomething of the Differences amongſt tne various Profeſſors of Chriſtianity, I found them all remote from the Tenor of Scripture; that all within the Circle of my Acquaintance, ſeemed totally to neglect thoſe Doctrines the holy Scriptures made abſolutely neceſſary to Salvation; and warmly to contend for *Forms* and *Modes*, and whatever the Bible was either quite ſilent about, or laid no Streſs upon. But what I wondered at moſt of all was, that thoſe, who by their Laws of their Country, were ſeparated from the reſt of the People, to teach the Principles and Practice of their holy Religion, were, for the moſt Part, the greateſt Strangers to the Eſſence of the Goſpel! As for their Lives, they are as vain, trifling and irreligious as any others. They frequent all publick Theatres, Balls, and the vileſt Aſſemblies. In ſhort, they are a common Reproach, a publick Scandal, and the very Hindrance of others Repentance. But ſtill they call themſelves the Miniſters of the Goſpel, the Embaſſadors of Jeſus Chriſt; and expect to be reverenced of all Men, for being the Followers of his Humility, his Contempt of the World, and Purity of Life.

Upon

Upon the whole, I could form no other Judgment of the Divinity of the Goſpel from the Deportment of the Bulk of its Profeſſors, and eſpecially of their Teachers, than that it was a cunning Fable, deviſed only to agrandize a ſet of Men that call *themſelves* the *Clergy*. Their public Exhortations faintly recommend a Conduct of Life, ſuch as they themſelves are moſtly Strangers to; though it be no more than a little dry Heathen Morality. From all this, I could ſee them in no other Light, than the very Betrayers and Murderers of the God-Man, Chriſt Jeſus.

Thus, my dear *Hayton*, inſtead of the real Happineſs I promiſed myſelf in the Society of Chriſtians, and the glorious Privileges of their Religion, ſo recommended and adorned by that poor exiled Slave; I met with very little elſe here in this Chriſtian Land, (ſo called,) but Infidelity, and Profaneneſs; which ſore Diſappointment hardened my Heart againſt all Religion whatever. What could I then conclude, but that the *Bible* was a Cheat, and their Religion a Craft? And I had well nigh reſolved to looſe the Reins of my Paſſion, and follow the Multitude to do Evil.

But one Sabbath Evening (and let me not forget that Day!) as I was taking a ſolitary Walk, muſing on theſe Things, I paſſed by a very crowded Aſſembly of People. Led as, I thought, by Curioſity; I entered the Place *with* no little Contempt in my Heart. But, O my *Hayton!* How ſhall I deſcribe the ſtrange Emotions I felt, whilſt Joy ſet upon the Countenances of thoſe about me. The Solemnity of the Place, and the awful Behaviour of the Aſſembly was ſuch as I had never ſeen before; and what ſtruck me with Wonder and deep Attention. One Spirit ſeemed to animate the whole Body; and what one Man offered up in Prayer, the reſt made their joint Requeſt to God for.

O what

O what I felt when I heard the King of Kings addreſt in theſe Words ——— *Gird thy Sword upon thy Thigh, O thou moſt Mighty, and in thy Majeſty ride proſperouſly upon the Word of Truth, Meekneſs and Righteouſneſs.* ——— *Thine Arrows are very ſharp in the Heart of the King's Enemies.* I trembled; and though I doubted if I had not better fly away, I could not, I dared not leave the awful Place. Prayer being ended, from the ſacred Oracles, the Man of GOD, read theſe Words, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot ſee the Kingdom of God.* He ſhewed both the Holineſs of that GOD, with whom we have to do, the great *Deſign* of Redemption, by Jeſus Chriſt, the Pravity of our Souls, and the Nature of that Happineſs which is ſet before us, the abſolute Neceſſity of being born again, in order to obtain a preſent Pardon, and perſevere to future Salvation. He not only proved the Neceſſity of our Regeneration from theſe, and many other ſubſtantial Arguments, but there was ſomething like a Judgment-Seat ſet up in my own Conſcience. I was by ſome Power, more than human, indicted, proved guilty, and condemned. The ſinful Actions of my Life were now laid open before me: I was compelled to aſſent to what I never knew before; namely, That all my ſinful Actions proceeded from a corrupt Fountain; a Nature univerſally depraved and polluted. Each Sentence he ſpake came with Authority and Conviction to my Heart; eſpecially ſuch as theſe; *Every Mouth muſt be ſtopped, and all the World* (even they that have not the written Law) *become guilty before God. No Man can redeem his Brother, nor give unto God a ranſome for him. He that believeth on Jeſus Chriſt ſhall be ſaved, and he that believeth not ſhall be damned.* Now it was that my Heart failed within me! I groaned in Spirit! I cryed, I am undone! My Sins are gone over my head. The Remembrance of them is grievous, and the Burden of them is intolerable.

When

When all was ended, I ſtrove with all my Might to conceal the Confuſion of my Mind from thoſe happier Souls, I was ſurrounded with, but ſome of them perceived my Concern; and one ſaid to me, with Tears in his Eyes, "The Saviour of Sinners have Mercy on thee, and reveal himſelf to thy Soul!" But, O my Load was great! I returned with a heavy Heart.

When I entered my Cloſet, I threw myſelf proſtrate on the Ground, and attempted to pray. But it was long before I could ſpeak a Word. At length, under ſome Heart-Meltings, and in broken Accents I cry'd out; "O Lord, GOD, the Maker of "all Things, and the Governor of the World; "unto thee all Power belongs; thou canſt kill, "and make alive.———Mercifully behold a poor "miſerable Sinner———ruined and undone——— "I confeſs, O GOD, that I have juſtly deſerved "eternal Death; and it is alone of thy ſparing "Hand that I am yet alive———Thou canſt in a "moment cruſh me to Death, and in juſt Ven- "geance deſtroy me for ever.——But, O my GOD! "glorify thyſelf in the Salvation even of ſuch a "Wretch as I am.———O be merciful to me a "Sinner!———For the Sake of all thy Goodneſs, "and all that whereby thou makeſt it known! "Turn me, even *me*, and ſave me for ever and "ever!

After ſome time I roſe from the Ground; but in great Diſtraction of Mind. Some times I had Thoughts of going in ſearch of the Preacher, in hopes of finding Relief from him; but this ſeemed impractible, it being now late in the Evening; and beſides I know not where to ſeek him: Then I concondemn'd myſelf for not having enquired where he lived; and looked upon this Neglect as a bad Omen. It now darted into my Mind whether or no the Miniſter I had heard was really a Man of like Paſſions with others or rather an Angel ſent from GOD. In the Multitude of my Thoughts within me,

I caſt my Eye upon my quite neglected Bible; which I had before careleſsly thrown aſide, finding it ſo little regarded by the generality of thoſe called Chriſtians. I read, and pondered, and read on; but alas! every Line ſeemed to millitate againſt me; and inſtead of miniſtering Relief, to encreaſe my Torment. I cloſed the Book, and pauſed, then opened it again, and found theſe Words, *The Sorrows of Death compaſſed me, and the Pains of Hell gat hold upon me: I found Trouble and Sorrow. Then called I upon the Name of the Lord; O Lord, I beſeech thee, deliver my Soul.* This Scripture, for a Moment, conveyed ſome Light and Comfort to my Diſtreſs: I ſaw my Caſe was not as I ſuppoſed, peculiar to myſelf. I ſaid, Surely this Man has been in like Trouble of Soul, and has felt the Pains of Hell too; and yet the Lord graciouſly delivered him out of all.

But this ſmall Glimering of Light was ſoon extinguiſhed: All that Night I had no Reſt. My Slumberings were attended with aſtoniſhing Terror: Death, Judgment, and eternal Deſtruction was all I could ſee, and all I could hear; and a terrible Sound it was. The Preacher's Text was continually ringing in my Ears, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot ſee the Kingdom of Heaven.* For ſome Time I confined myſelf to my Room; hardly took ſo much Suſtinance as was ſufficient to preſerve me alive. The Comforts of this Life were now blaſted. I lay under ſharp Convictions. *The Arrows of the Almighty ſtuck faſt in me: They drank up my Spirits, whilſt his Hand preſſed me ſore:* Then I cry'd, *What muſt I do to be ſaved!* At other Times I was more eaſy; then under amazing Horror and Dread, becauſe I was ſo thoughtleſs and ſtupid while my Caſe was ſo dreadful: I was often under violent Temptations to deſtroy myſelf, and ſo put an End to a wretched Life; for I thought ſurely the longer I live the more Sin I commit; conſequently my Puniſhment muſt be the greater in the End. Then

was

was I without Hope of Deliverance, and concluded, the ſooner I put an End to my Miſery the better. Now and then I had a ſmall tranſient Gleam of Light, darting into my Soul, which for the Time it laſted, gave me ſome Hope of Deliverance; at leaſt a Paradventure, that the Lord might have Mercy on ſo vile a Wretch as me!

At this Seaſon I was led to diſcover more clearly the ſecret Workings of Corruption in my Heart. The Spirit of GOD convinced me, that my Underſtanding was, by Nature, blind and ignorant. *Till God, who cauſed the Light to ſhine out of Darkneſs, ſhines into the Heart, to give the Knowledge of his Glory, in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt.* I ſaw more than ever, that my Will was ſtubborn and perverſe, even to an Enmity againſt the Law of GOD: Alſo that my Affections were all diſorderly, impure, ſenſual, and deviliſh: And what was even beyond this, that I could not love the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who had done and ſuffered ſo much on my Account! I felt that all my Deſigns wholly terminated in myſelf. I was ſpiritually and rationally convinced, that for me to deny natural, moral, and religious *Self*, and come to Chriſt as a poor, miſerable, wretched, empty Creature, to live upon his Righteouſneſs forever; is as ſupernatural, and wonderful, as to ſee the Mountains and Hills removed, and caſt into the Depth of the Sea. I now began to feel, more than ever, what I had before read in the Bible; but could not comprehend—that Salvation was purely of *Grace*. That nothing leſs than ſovereign Grace could ſave my Soul from the Guilt and Dominion of Sin, and initiate me into the glorious Privileges of the Sons of GOD.

During this Confinement, my courteous Friend, who had before taken ſuch Pains to inſtruct me in the Manners and Language of the Country, made me a Viſit. He was greatly ſurprized to ſee my Countenance ſo fallen, and kindly enquired into

into the Cauſe. As he was a *Teacher in Iſrael*, and one that I had often heard animadvert warmly on the bad Behaviour of the generality of his Brethren; I ſimply related the Trouble I was in, and what I apprehended was the Cauſe of it; and what I more than feared, muſt be the fatal Conſequence. He looked earneſtly at me, and with Concern in his Countenance reply'd, "I pity your Condition "from my Heart. Your Diſorder is a religious "Diſtraction of Mind, which we call *Enthuſi-* "*aſm*. The Perſon your heard preach, who was "the Cauſe of your Trouble, is a *grand De-* "*ceiver*. One whoſe conſtant Employment is to "*turn the World upſide down!* Not being content "with our moſt happy eſtabliſhed Form of Reli- "gion, he has got ſome Novel, wild Chimerea's in "his Head; and being fired with the irritional Ideas "of his own Brain, he frightens his poor de- "luded Followers out of their Senſes: Moſt of "whom are poor, illeterate Perſons, the *very Filth* "*and Off-ſcouring of the World*. My Advice to "you, Sir, ſaid he, is never to go near them "more by any Means. To attend the regular "ſtated Service of our excellent Church. To go "abroad into chearful Company; ſpeak off that "corroſieve Melancholy, and reſume your wonted "ſprightlineſs. God is a merciful Being, and does "not require ſo much Strictneſs at our Hands. "You may uſe the Pleaſures of this Life, love "the World, and go to Heaven too."

I aſked the Meaning of thoſe Words, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot ſee the Kingdom of God*. He ſaid, "You muſt be baptized, and lead a "moral, ſober Life: But not think to receive the "Holy Spirit."

Now I ſaw what he was; and knew that if he was right, the Word of God was wrong. He left me ſtill grievouſly oppreſſed and heavy laden with Sin. I was under the cleareſt Conviction, both from

what the Preacher declared, and what I read in the Bible, That no Righteouſneſs could ſerve to juſtify my Perſon at the Tribunal of a juſt and holy GOD, but that which is altogether perfect, fully commenſurate to the utmoſt Demands of the moral Law. This I more than ſaw was altogether impoſſible for me to perform. In fine, I found my Acquaintance was a Phyſician of no Value, altogether a Stranger to my Diſorder, and quite unacquainted with the only ſovereign Remedy for periſhing Souls; a *blind Leader of the Blind:* And I not willing to fall into the Ditch with him.

I longed exceedingly for the Return of the next Lord's Day; reſolved to go (notwithſtanding all the Doctor ſaid) to the ſame Place, where GOD had ſo wonderfully wrought upon my Soul before.

The bleſſed Morning being come, I worſhipped the God of Heaven in fervent Prayer, committed my Body, Soul, and Concerns to him, and begged, that this Day might be a Feaſt of Marrow and fat Things to my Soul, and ſoon haſtened to the Aſſembly of Saints. But as they began their Worſhip ſooner than moſt others, I was again a little too late. The ſame Miniſter was there, and my very Heart leaped at the Sound of his Voice. He was juſt taking thoſe ſoul-reviving Words for the Subject of his Diſcourſe—*Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you Reſt.* He told us, that this was the Voice of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt himſelf, inviting weary, hungry, periſhing Souls, to a Feaſt of Mercy and Grace. And in order to prevail upon his Hearers to accept the Invitation, he ſhewed; 1ſt. That the Burden of Sin is a heavy Burden. 2. That the Spirit of GOD always makes us feel that Burden, and groan to be delivered, before we find Reſt. 3. That Jeſus Chriſt only can give Reſt to the weary Soul. 4. That he will do it to all that come unto him: Namely, to all that believe. He inſiſted upon all

theſe

theſe Points; and was large in the Inferences he drew from them. Then concluded in Prayer and Praiſe.

During the whole Time, the moſt devout Affections were to be diſcerned in the whole Aſſembly. As for me, I found that every Word was exactly levelled at my Heart. He could not have ſpoke more pertinately to my Caſe, if I had told him all the Exerciſes of my diſtracted Mind. I ſometimes thought he had ſurely been informed of all my Griefs; and hence he directed his Diſcourſe *only to me*. He opened all my Diſeaſe, probed the Wound to the Bottom; and in Effect, he ſhook me over the Mouth of Hell. Then he applied the precious *Balm of Gilliad*; he preached Jeſus Chriſt in all his Offices, eſpecially as the glorious Phyſician, who heals the wounded Conſcience, for his own Name-Sake.

In the Application of the whole, he ſhewed the many Hindrances which lie in the Way; and the perplexing Doubts and ſlaviſh Fears which poſſeſs the burdened Conſcience at its firſt coming to Chriſt; and withall, how able and willing he is to receive and give them Reſt. My Soul failed within me. My Spirits ſunk under the Weight of a comfortable Hope, that Jeſus would have Mercy on *me*, even *me!*

Juſt as he drew to a Concluſion, he raiſed his Voice, and with great Earneſtneſs quoted theſe Words; *I, even I am he, that bloteth out thy Tranſgreſſions, for mine own Sake, and will not remember thy Sins, ſaith the* LORD. The bleſſed Spirit apply'd them home to my Soul; and wrote, by the Finger of God, upon the Table of my Heart, in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, the Scales fell from my Eyes! I beheld *Jeſus of Nazareth*, by the Eye of Faith, as evidently crucified before me——bearing my Sins in his own Body on the accurſed Tree

Tree. The Priſon Doors were thrown open, my Soul, that before was bound in Miſery and Iron, and locked up in the Priſon of Unbelief, was now ſet at Liberty. GOD helped me to come as a poor, periſhing, undone Sinner, and caſt my Soul upon Jeſus Chriſt! O he graciouſly received me; and according to the Multitude of his Mercies, and the Faithfulneſs of his Promiſe, he *blotted out all my Sins!* I received Chriſt into my Heart, *the Hope of Glory:* And he put a new Song in my Mouth, even Praiſes unto GOD for his *diſcriminating Grace!*

——He hath lov'd me, I cry'd,
He hath liv'd, and hath dy'd
To redeem ſuch a rebel as me!

O, my dear *Hayton*, I cannot deſcribe the thouſandth Part of that Traſport of Joy, that ſubſtantial Bliſs, I then felt! and bleſſed be GOD, *even now*, while I am writing, I yet feel it in my Soul. I was in a Moment tranſlated from Darkneſs to Light; from Sickneſs to Health; from Pain to Eaſe; from Miſery to Happineſs; from Bondage to Liberty; from Death to Life: Yea, I may truly ſay, from Hell to Heaven!

Had I but one Wiſh left, it ſhould be, that my dear Friend, even whilſt he reads the Language of my happy Soul, *might taſte and ſee how good and gracious the Lord is!* might himſelf feel the Sweetneſs, Life and Power of Chriſt!

Well, my Soul, (thro' GOD!) ſhall always remember *thee*, my *Hayton*! and when I bow before the Throne of Jeſus, O let my Prayers come up before him, and be heard for *you!*

Now I *began* to live. From this Moment commenced my *ſpiritual* and *eternal* Life; *which is hid with Chriſt in God.* Jeſus Chriſt is become to me a Head of Influence, and I daily *receive out of his*

Fulneſs

Fulneſs, *Grace for Grace*. The whole Body of Sin is condemned in the Fleſh, and has already received its mortal Wound. Jeſus gave me to drink of the living Water, and it flows, and ever will flow unto eternal Life. The Sun of Righteouſneſs ſhines with a New Light into my *Underſtanding*, ſets a New Byaſs to my *Will*, and all the *Paſſions* and *Affections* of my Soul, run in a *New Channel*. In a Word, the Holy Ghoſt has wrought a real, thorough Change in my Heart; all old Things are done away, and all Things are become NEW: For being now become dead to the Law, and married to Chriſt, I am enabled to bring *forth Fruits unto GOD*.

But O! when I view my Intereſt in CHRIST, and conſider, that an inexhauſtable Fund of *Grace*, *Strength*, and *Righteouſneſs*, is lodged for me in the Redeemer's Hands; this proves the ſweeteſt and moſt powerful Engagement to all evangelical Obedience, and the only ſpring of all true Conſolation.

May the dear Emanuel draw thy Heart into Union with his glorious Perſon, which is eternal Life! Then, and not till then, you ſhall enjoy a Kingdom of Heaven in your own Breaſt, a very Paradiſe in your Soul, unſpeakably better than what the *Alcboran* deludes us with a falſe Expectation of.

If it bo ſo, my dear *Hayton*, as it really is, that all real Chriſtians are thus happy in a World of Woe, and under the Incumbrances of Fleſh and Blood, How tranſcendantly glorious, how unſpeakably happy muſt they be, when theſe Impediments are removed? When the Soul becomes at Liberty to range the whole Paradiſe of GOD; and taſte the Joys of infinite Delights! And thus ſhall it be done unto every Man, whom Jeſus delights to honour.

I muſt farther relate to you, That when I had the Happineſs of being acquainted with the *Evangeliſt* that firſt brought the glad Tidings to my Ears, and by whoſe Miniſtry the Grace of GOD reached my Heart, I related my Experience to him, and a few of his intimate Friends. O how did they weep for Joy over me! They ſtrengthened my Faith in Chriſt, aud gave Glory to GOD, who had added another loſt Sinner to his militant Church. Theſe knew how to ſympathize with me, when I lay under the *Wrath of GOD*, the Curſes of the *Law*, and the *Terrors of Conſcience*; for, by comparing *Notes*, our Experiences exactly tallyed, as *Face anſwereth Face in a Glaſs*.

But here, give me leave to make a few Obſervations of another Kind.

The Chriſtian Religion is, I preſume, not only to be demonſtrated by the Spirit's ſecret Operations in the Soul, but it may be proved from rational Grounds, to be a Syſtem altogether agreeable to *right Reaſon*, and the moral *fitneſs of Things*. For what ſo fit *for*, and ſuitable *too*, a loſt, ungodly, helpleſs Sinner, as an All-ſufficient SAVIOUR? What ſo ſuitable to the Weary, as Reſt; to the Hungry, as Bread; to the Thirſty, as Water; to the Naked, as a Garment; to the Blind, as Sight, &c. All theſe, and many more ſtriking Metaphors, has the Holy Spirit moſt eligantly borrowed from the Creature, to ſhew how reaſonable a Thing it is, that we ſhould believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, unto eternal Life.

No Man can be forced to believe againſt his Reaſon, or love againſt his Will, or deſire againſt his Inclination. Therefore the Spirit of GOD firſt enlightens the Underſtanding that it may *diſcern*; the *Will* and *Affections* then naturally flow after. The Soul is firſt drawn to Jeſus as if it would not come; and then it comes as if it were not drawn

drawn. *He drew me with the Cords of Love, as with the Bands of a Man. And this is a faithful Saying, and worthy of all Acceptation* (even of our enlightened Age!) *That Chriſt Jeſus came into the World to ſave Sinners.*

And I found, That the greateſt Part of thoſe, whom I have been ſpeaking of, could each ſay for himſelf, from the real Experience of the Heart, *Jeſus Chriſt hath loved me, and given himſelf for me.* And the whole of their Deportment, and Converſation in the World, ſhews them to be, Perſons full of genuine Humility, unaffected Seriouſneſs, being mild and gentle; free from all ſelfiſh Deſign; wholly devoted to Jeſus Chriſt, and earneſtly ſeeking the Good of all their Fellow-Creatures. And yet (wonderful to relate!) theſe People are contemned by almoſt all Profeſſors, both Teachers and Hearers. Yea, they are perſecuted, and loaded with all the Obloquy that inveterate Malice can ſuggeſt; and all the Oppoſition they can contrive, given to prevent the ſpreading of the glorious Goſpel, and the Increaſe of the genuine Followers of the exalted Redeemer. Nay, thoſe that diſagree in all other religious Points, yet are unanimous in this——That they will root out, if poſſible, their Memorial from the Face of the Earth.

But notwithſtanding all the Oppoſition they meet with, the Meekneſs, Patience, and Perſeverance of theſe Chriſtians, both Miniſters and People (for I underſtand there are many more of the ſame Spirit) ſurmounts all Difficulties; and their Numbers daily increaſe.) And why not? ſeeing the wonderful Converſions that are among them, are ſurely enough to engage the greateſt Sceptick in Religion, to believe that the mighty Power of GOD is with them!

O that

O that our Counery-men would but admit this true Goſpel of Chriſt amongſt them! ſurely if it were preached by ſome of theſe deſpiſed Meſſengers of the living GOD, they would, I doubt not, thro' *divine Grace*, embrace the Truth, as it is in Jeſus; and be a Reproach to this Nation, who reſiſt the Calls of GOD: And though they are called by his Name, will not have this Man, this God-Man Chriſt Jeſus, to reign over them.

Oh! how fatally ſucceſsful has the Enemy of Mankind been, by engaging in his Intereſt that very Power, which by primitive Goſpel Inſtitution was ordained as a Barrier between the People and his ſubtil Inventions! Surely he has gained his Point, by bribing the *Watchmen* with Riches, Power, and Pleaſure; ſo that while they riot in luxurious Eaſe, the poor Souls, under their miſtaken Care, fall an eaſy, willing Sacrifice to his rapacious Power. Wo, wo, to the *Watchmen*, and wo to the *People!* for the Careleſneſs of *thoſe*, will not extenuate the Guilt of *theſe*. *If the Blind lead the Blind, both ſhall fall in the Ditch together.* But every Soul ſhall be required at the Watchman's Hand.

It appears to me, that this *corrupt Miniſtry* is a greater Enemy to their Nation than the moſt formidable Powers about them; for *thoſe*, at the worſt, can but annoy them in their temporal Intereſt, but *theſe* wound them deeply in temporal and eternal, at the ſame Time; inaſmuch as if we practiſed the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, and lived by the Faith of the Son of GOD, it could not fail of engaging the Arm of Omnipotence in the Defence of both: Then, having our Anchor within the Veil, we might juſtly triumph with thoſe worthy Heroes of old, who through *Faith, ſubdued Kingdoms, wrought Righteouſneſs, obtained Promiſes, ſtopped the Mouths of Lions, quenched the Violence of Fire*

Fire, escaped the Edge of the Sword; out of Weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in Fight, and turned to flight the Armies of the Aliens. Whereas, on the contrary, a dissolate, debauched, profane Life, a Land full of Infidelity, must cause the divine Majesty, of Heaven, to rise up against them.

I should swell my Letter to too great a Length, should I pursue my Inclination on this Subject: But what I have said, I hope, through the Assistance of divine Grace, will excite your Desires and Diligence to become acquainted, *experimentally acquainted*, with the Doctrines of the Gospel.

Oh, *Hayton!* did you but know the Joy of believing in JESUS CHRIST, and the Heaven I enjoy in Communion with him, it would soon wean you from your superstitious, and fruitless Pilgrimages to *Mecca* and *Arafata*, in honour of a grand Imposture; and engage you to come, and *see the Salvation of GOD.*

If it please the REDEEMER to breathe on these Lines, this humble Attempt to inform your Judgment, and awaken your Conscience, so that they are brought with Conviction to your Heart, I shall (if the LORD please) send you another Letter, to give you a brief Account of the Doctrines, Practice, and Discipline. The Officers, Members, Glory and Symetry of a Church of CHRIST, according to the Bible-Plan.

Farewell, my dear Friend! May the contemned *Nazarene*, bring thee to a Knowledge of thyself, and a Knowledge of his Pardoning Love, which is eternal Life!

Then

Then you will not envy our *great Sultan* his Glory, but be happy, unſpeakably happy, in your own Breaſt,

As is,

Your joyful,

Self-exiled Friend, &c.

GAIFER.

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HYMNS

HYMNS.

WITH joy we meditate the grace
Of our high prieſt above;
His heart is made of tenderneſs,
His bowels melt with love.

2 Touch'd with a ſympathy within,
He knows our feeble frame;
He knows what ſore temptations mean,
For he hath felt the ſame.

3 He, in the days of feeble fleſh,
Pour'd out his cries and tears,
And in his meaſure feels afreſh
What every member bears.

4 He'll never quench the ſmoaking flax,
But raiſe it to a flame;
The bruiſed reed he never breaks,
Nor ſcorns the meaneſt name.

5 Then let our humble faith addreſs
His mercy and his pow'r;
We ſhall obtain deliv'ring grace
In the diſtreſſing hour.

HYMN

HYNM II.

AWAKE my heart, ariſe my tongue,
Prepare a tuneful voice;
In GOD, the life of all my joys,
Aloud will I rejoice.

2 'Tis he adorn'd my naked ſoul,
And made ſalvation mine;
Upon a poor polluted worm
He makes his mercies ſhine.

3 And leſt the ſhadow of a ſpot
Should on my ſoul be found,
He took the robe the Sav'our wrought
And caſt it all around.

4 How far this heav nly robe exceeds
What earthly princes wear!
Theſe ornaments how bright they ſhine!
How white the garments are!

5 The Spirit wrought my faith and love,
And hope and ev'ry grace;
But Jeſus ſpent his life to work
The robe of righteouſneſs.

6 Strangely, my ſoul, art thou array'd
By the great ſacred three;
In ſweeteſt harmony of praiſe,
Let all thy pow'rs agree.

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FINIS.